

FFTA



Foster Family-based Treatment Association

April 18, 2014

Dear Chairman Reichert and Ranking Member Doggett:

The national Foster Family-based Treatment Association applauds H.R. 4058 “Preventing Sex Trafficking and Improving Opportunities for Youth in Foster Care Act” introduced on February 14, 2014.

Treatment (or Therapeutic) Foster Care (TFC) is foster care for children and youth with special medical, psychological, emotional and social needs who can accept and respond to relationships within a family setting, but who also require intensive therapeutic services. TFC is, therefore, distinguished from “traditional” foster care, “kinship” foster care, and “specialized” (homes contracted with Departments of Developmental Disabilities) foster care, where the fundamental need is a need for placement.

Treatment foster care is a system of care for youth who have experienced complex trauma. When victims of domestic minor sex trafficking (DMST) are identified, they may be best served through the level of care, preparation, and intervention of TFC in order to deal with their trauma and to begin a path toward recovery and well-being.

FFTA applauds your leadership to identify and respond to youth in foster care who are at risk of becoming or who become victims of sex trafficking. Preventing this crime and empowering these victims will require multi-system accountability and collaboration. We support this effort and are ready to address the treatment needs of trafficked youth through treatment foster care.

Gratefully,

Laura W. Boyd, Ph.D.

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Public Policy and Government Relations Consultant

Foster Family-based Treatment Association

294 Union Street, Hackensack, New Jersey 07601

405-503-1123 cell

405-217-2223 fax

Contact email: lboyd544@gmail.com

www.ffa.org